

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 54

To amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for reform of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 1993

Mr. HEFLEY (for himself, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GOSS, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ZELIFF, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, Mr. PORTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. STUMP, Mr. HANCOCK, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

To amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for reform of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. TASK FORCE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF**
3 **COMMITTEES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-**
4 **ATIVES.**

5 Not later than 10 days after the date on which this
6 resolution is agreed to, the Speaker shall appoint a task
7 force for the purpose of restructuring the committee sys-
8 tem in order to reduce the number of standing committees

1 to not more than 15 and to establish their jurisdictions.

2 The task force shall—

3 (1) be composed of 10 Members of the House,
4 of whom 5 Members shall be appointed upon the
5 recommendation of the majority leader and 5 Mem-
6 bers shall be appointed upon recommendation of the
7 minority leader; and

8 (2) report its recommendations to the House
9 not later than the end of the One Hundred Third
10 Congress.

11 **SEC. 2. SUBCOMMITTEE LIMITS.**

12 Clause 6(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of
13 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

14 “(d)(1) Each standing committee of the House (ex-
15 cept the Committee on the Budget which shall have no
16 subcommittees and the Committee on Rules which shall
17 have 2 subcommittees) shall establish not more than 4
18 subcommittees, except the Committee on Appropriations
19 (which may have the same number of subcommittees that
20 it had in the One Hundred Second Congress).

21 “(2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term
22 ‘subcommittee’ includes any panel, task force, special sub-
23 committee, or any subunit of a standing committee, or any
24 select committee which is established for a period of longer
25 than 6 months in any Congress.”.

1 **SEC. 3. COMMITTEE STAFFING.**

2 Clause 5 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives is amended by redesignating paragraphs (a)
4 through (f) as paragraphs (b) through (g), respectively,
5 and by inserting at the beginning the following new para-
6 graph:

7 “(a)(1) It shall not be in order to consider any pri-
8 mary expense resolution until the Committee on House
9 Administration has reported, and the House has adopted,
10 a resolution establishing an overall ceiling for House com-
11 mittee staff personnel for that year, and any such resolu-
12 tion shall be privileged.

13 “(2) In developing any primary expense resolution,
14 the Committee on House Administration shall specify in
15 the resolution the number of staff positions authorized by
16 the resolution. The committee shall verify in the report
17 accompanying any such primary expense resolution that
18 the number of staff positions authorized by such resolution
19 is in conformity with the overall ceiling on such positions
20 established by the House.

21 “(3) In no event shall the total number of additional
22 staff positions authorized by all such primary expense res-
23 olutions, taken together with the number of staff positions
24 authorized by clause 6 of this rule (providing for profes-
25 sional and clerical staff), exceed the ceiling established by
26 the House for that year.

1 “(4) In allocating staff positions pursuant to the
2 overall ceiling established by the House, the committee
3 shall take into account the past and anticipated legislative
4 and oversight activities of each committee.

5 “(5) In any supplemental expense resolution, and in
6 any amendment thereto, the committee shall specify the
7 number of additional staff positions, if any, authorized by
8 such resolution, and shall indicate in the report accom-
9 panying any such resolution whether the additional staff
10 positions are in conformity with or exceed the overall ceil-
11 ing established by the House.

12 “(6) It shall not be in order to consider any supple-
13 mental expense resolution, or any amendment thereto, au-
14 thorizing additional staff positions in excess of the overall
15 ceiling established by the House except by a vote of two-
16 thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present.

17 “(7) It shall not be in order to consider any primary
18 or supplemental expense resolution for one or more com-
19 mittees unless the report on such resolution includes a
20 statement verifying that each such committee has adopted
21 and complied with a committee rule entitling the minority
22 party on such committee, upon the request of a majority
23 of such minority, to not less than one-third of the funds
24 provided for committee staff pursuant to each primary or
25 supplemental expense resolution.

1 “(8) For the purposes of the One Hundred Third
2 Congress, the overall ceiling for committee staff in a reso-
3 lution reported by the committee pursuant to subpara-
4 graph (1), or contained in any amendment thereto, shall
5 not exceed 50 percent of the total committee staff person-
6 nel employed at the end of the One Hundred Second
7 Congress.”.

8 **SEC. 4. PROXY VOTING BAN.**

9 Clause 2(f) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of
10 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

11 “(f) No vote by any member of any committee or sub-
12 committee with respect to any measure or matter may be
13 cast by proxy.”.

14 **SEC. 5. COMMITTEE RATIOS.**

15 (a) Clause 6(a) of rule X of the Rules of the House
16 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
17 following new subparagraph:

18 “(3) The membership of each committee (and each
19 subcommittee, task force, or other subunit thereof) shall
20 reflect the ratio of majority to minority party Members
21 of the House at the beginning of the Congress. This sub-
22 paragraph shall not apply to the Committee on Standards
23 of Official Conduct or the Committee on House Adminis-
24 tration. For the purposes of this clause, the Resident
25 Commissioner from Puerto Rico and the Delegates to the

1 House shall not be counted in determining the party ratio
2 of the House.”.

3 (b) Clause 6(f) of rule X of the Rules of the House
4 of Representatives is amended by inserting after the sec-
5 ond sentence the following: “The membership of each such
6 select committee (and of any subcommittee, task force, or
7 subunit thereof), and of each such conference committee,
8 shall reflect the ratio of the majority to minority party
9 Members of the House at the time of its appointment.”.

10 (c) Effective at the beginning of the One Hundred
11 Third Congress, except as provided by clause 6(a)(3) of
12 rule X, the ratio of majority party to minority party staff
13 positions, consultants, details, and funding for each com-
14 mittee of the House of Representatives shall be the ratio
15 of majority party to minority party Members of the House
16 of Representatives.

17 **SEC. 6. ELIMINATION OF JOINT REFERRALS OF LEGISLA-**
18 **TION.**

19 Clause 5(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of
20 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

21 “(c) In carrying out paragraphs (a) and (b) with re-
22 spect to any matter, the Speaker shall initially refer the
23 matter to one committee which he shall designate as the
24 committee of principal jurisdiction.”.

1 **SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON LENGTH OF SERVICE ON ANY COM-**
2 **MITTEE.**

3 Clause 6 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives is amended by inserting at the end the
5 following:

6 “(j)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of these
7 rules, no Member shall serve as a member of any commit-
8 tee for more than 8 years or as chairman of any committee
9 for more than 4 years.

10 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)—

11 “(A) any service performed as a member or
12 chairman of any committee for less than a full ses-
13 sion in any Congress shall be disregarded; and

14 “(B) previous service on any committee before
15 the One Hundred Third Congress shall be dis-
16 regarded.”.

17 **SEC. 8. MAKING THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRA-**
18 **TION BIPARTISAN.**

19 Clause 6(a) of rule X of the Rules of the House of
20 Representatives (as amended by section 5) is amended by
21 adding at the end the following:

22 “(4)(A) One-half of the members of the Committee
23 on House Administration shall be from the majority party
24 and one-half shall be from the minority party.

25 “(B) In the case of the Committee on House Admin-
26 istration, subpoenas may be authorized and issued as pro-

1 vided by clause 2(m) of rule XI, except that either the
2 chairman or ranking minority party member of that com-
3 mittee may authorize and issue subpoenas under that
4 clause.”.

5 **SEC. 9. PERMITTING INSTRUCTIONS IN MOTIONS TO RE-**
6 **COMMIT.**

7 The second sentence in clause 4(b) of rule XI of the
8 Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by
9 striking “nor” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
10 lowing: “nor shall it report any rule or order which would
11 prevent the motion to recommit from being made as pro-
12 vided in clause 4 of rule XVI, including a motion with
13 amendatory instructions (except in the case of a Senate
14 measure for which the language of a House-passed meas-
15 ure has been substituted).”.

16 **SEC. 10. TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED TO WAIVE POINTS**
17 **OF ORDER.**

18 Clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
20 new paragraph:

21 “(e) It shall not be in order to consider a resolution
22 which waives any point of order, except by a vote of two-
23 thirds of those Members voting.”.

1 **SEC. 11. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS TO THE HOUSE.**

2 (a) It is the policy of the House that the laws of the
3 United States set forth in subsection (b) should be amend-
4 ed to apply to the House of Representatives in the same
5 or similar manner as such laws apply to the Executive
6 Branch.

7 (b) Not later than September 15, 1993, the standing
8 committees of the House with subject matter jurisdiction
9 over the following laws of the United States shall report
10 to the House legislation to implement subsection (a):

11 (1) The National Labor Relations Act.

12 (2) The Occupational Safety Act and Health
13 Act of 1970.

14 (3) The Equal Pay Act of 1963.

15 (4) The Age Discrimination in Employment Act
16 of 1967.

17 (5) Section 552 of title 5, United States Code
18 (popularly known as the Freedom of Information
19 Act).

20 (6) Section 552a of title 5, United States Code
21 (popularly known as the Privacy Act of 1974).

22 (7) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
23 (relating to equal employment opportunity).

24 (c) The Committee on Rules shall, not later than 10
25 legislative days after any such legislation has been re-
26 ported, report a resolution providing for the consideration

1 of such measure in the Committee of the Whole House
2 on the State of the Union under an open amendment
3 process.

4 (d) If such legislation is not reported by all the com-
5 mittees named above by the date specified, the first bill
6 introduced which implements the policy referred to in sub-
7 section (a) and which encompasses all the laws referred
8 to in subsection (b) shall be considered as having been
9 discharged from all the committees to which it was re-
10 ferred. It shall be in order on any day after September
11 30, 1993, for any Member of the House (after consulta-
12 tion with the Speaker as to the most appropriate time for
13 consideration), as a matter of highest privilege, to move
14 to resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the
15 State of the Union for its consideration, and the bill shall
16 be subject to four hours of general debate to be equally
17 divided and controlled by the majority and minority lead-
18 ers, or their designees, followed by consideration of the
19 measure for amendment under the five-minute rule.

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